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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to determine rates of student persistence in the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD). Using the fall 1988 semester for comparison, two cohorts (i.e., first-time freshmen and all LRCCD students) were tracked for the spring and fall 1989 semesters. Data were compiled for the whole district and for each of the four colleges in the LRCCD, analyzing persistence by gender and ethnicity for both groups. Study highlights included the following: (1) the overall fall-to-spring district persistence rate (57.1%) was generally higher than the fall-to-fall rate (40.7%); (2) the overall district persistence rate for first-time freshmen was lower than that for all students fall-to-spring, but higher when fall-to-fall persistence was calculated; (3) male freshmen and males in general persisted at a higher rate than the average for both fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall; (4) generally, Asian and Filipino students had the highest persistence rates, and Whites and American Indians had the lowest persistence rates; (5) American River College and Sacramento City College's (SCC's) fall-to-fall persistence rates for all students and for first-time freshmen were above the district-wide average, while Consumnes River College was slightly lower than the average; and (6) first-time freshmen Asian students at SCC had the highest retention rate (79.0%) of all first-time freshmen when compared to the other campuses. A graph showing the decrease in degrees and certificates awarded and an analysis of persistence by age and gender are appended. (WJT)

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Planning and Research
Student Persistence Study

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March 1990

JC 900 270

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Planning and Research
Student Persistence Study

The Office of Planning and Research has had a number of requests to determine the persistence rate of students from one semester to the next, or from one year to the next. Armed with our CDC CYBER mainframe and SPSS-X, we tackled the question of student persistence.

With Fall 1988 as the semester for comparison, we examined two different populations: First-Time Freshmen and All Los Rios Students. We tracked both student cohorts for the Spring 1989 and Fall 1989 semesters. The research question we wanted to answer was: Of all students (or of First-Time Freshmen) attending Los Rios in Fall 1988, how many were still attending the subsequent semester (Spring 1989), or the following year (Fall 1989)? We wanted to know the answer for the whole district, and for each of the colleges (including the Placerville Center). We also wanted to know if the persistence rate differed between men and women, or by ethnic group. (For purposes of this analysis, we did not exclude degree and certificate earners since relatively few degrees and certificates are granted annually. See Appendix.)

Our findings have been summarized by college and cohort in the following pages, but particular district and college highlights are discussed below:

District Highlights:

- The overall fall-to-spring persistence rate was generally higher (57.1%) than the fall-to-fall rate (40.7%).
- The overall persistence rates for First-Time Freshmen were lower than those for all students for fall-to-spring, but higher when fall-to-fall persistence is calculated.
- Male persistence rates were generally higher than the average for both fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall for both All Los Rios Students and First-Time Freshmen, but the female fall-to-fall persistence rate was higher than the average fall-to-fall persistence rate for All Los Rios Students.
- Generally, Asian and Filipino students had the highest persistence rates when compared to the other ethnic groups for both fall-to-fall and fall-to-spring, and for All Los Rios students and First-Time Freshmen. Whites and American Indians had lower persistence rates than the other ethnic groups.

- Since the low persistence rates of whites and American Indians was somewhat surprising, we investigated further. Our hypothesis was that white and American Indian students were older and therefore more likely to be employed and to attend intermittently, so an age group analysis was done (see Appendix). This did in fact prove to be the case with both the All Student and First-Time Freshmen cohorts, since there were proportionally more older white and American Indian students in both cohorts.

College Highlights:

- ARC and SCC fall-to-fall student persistence rates for All Students and First-Time Freshmen were above the districtwide average, while CRC was slightly lower than the average. (This reflects the relatively younger student populations at SCC and ARC.)

- First-Time Freshmen Asian students at SCC had the highest retention rate of all First-time Freshmen when compared to the other campuses (79.0% compared to the average of 74.6%).

- The Placerville Center had generally low persistence rates, reflecting their predominantly older, part-time student population.

Los Rios District

Los Rios Community College District

All Los Rios Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
District Student Population in Fall 1988:	**43117**
Number of Fall 1988 students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**24621**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**57.1%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**58.3%**
Female	**56.2%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**67.3%**
Filipino	**59.7%**
Other	**58.3%**
Hispanic	**57.1%**
Black	**56.7%**
No Code	**56.4%**
White	**55.9%**
Am. Ind.	**54.3%**

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Los Rios Community College District

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
District First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**7544**
Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**4217**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**55.9%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**57.1%**
Female	**54.9%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**74.6%**
Filipino	**62.5%**
Other	**58.3%**
White	**54.5%**
Black	**54.4%**
Hispanic	**53.9%**
Am. Ind.	**44.8%**
No Code	**44.4%**

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Los Rios Community College District

All Los Rios Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
District Population in Fall 1988:	**43117**
Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989:	**17568**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**40.7%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**40.9%**
Male	**40.5%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**49.5%**
Filipino	**45.1%**
Other	**41.9%**
Hispanic	**41.8%**
No Code	**40.3%**
Black	**39.7%**
White	**39.6%**
Am. Ind.	**38.7%**

Los Rios Community College District

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
District First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**7544**
Number of Fall 1988 First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989:	**3249**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**43.0%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**43.4%**
Female	**42.8%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**60.4%**
Filipino	**55.5%**
Other	**47.7%**
White	**41.7%**
Black	**40.0%**
Hispanic	**39.7%**
No Code	**37.3%**
Am. Ind.	**36.4%**

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American River College

American River College

All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
ARC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**19443**
Number of Fall 1988 ARC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**11480**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**59.0%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**60.3%**
Female	**58.1%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**65.1%**
Filipino	**60.9%**
Other	**59.6%**
White	**58.9%**
Hispanic	**58.9%**
Black	**57.3%**
No Code	**56.5%**
Am. Ind.	**54.4%**

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American River College

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
ARC First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**3938**
Number of Fall 1988 ARC First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**2283**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**58.0%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**58.6%**
Female	**57.4%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**70.5%**
Filipino	**64.5%**
Other	**63.7%**
White	**58.2%**
Black	**54.3%**
Hispanic	**53.8%**
Am. Ind.	**48.2%**
No Code	**45.0%**

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American River College

All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
ARC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**19443**
Number of Fall 1988 ARC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**8095**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**41.6%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**42.0%**
Male	**41.1%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**46.6%**
Filipino	**45.1%**
Hispanic	**43.7%**
Other	**43.3%**
Black	**41.3%**
White	**41.1%**
Am. Ind.	**40.7%**
No Code	**38.7%**

American River College

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
ARC First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**3938**
Number of Fall 1988 ARC First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989:	**1764**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**44.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**45.5%**
Male	**43.9%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**55.7%**
Filipino	**54.8%**
Other	**46.2%**
White	**44.6%**
Black	**42.7%**
Hispanic	**42.4%**
Am. Ind.	**40.0%**
No Code	**38.8%**

Cosumnes River College

Cosumnes River College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
CRC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**6558**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**3400**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**51.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**52.5%**
Female	**51.3%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**60.8%**
No Code	**58.5%**
Filipino	**58.1%**
Other	**49.5%**
Am. Ind.	**53.7%**
Hispanic	**52.2%**
White	**50.6%**
Black	**50.6%**

Cosumnes River College

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
CRC First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**833**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**331**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**39.7%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**41.0%**
Female	**38.7%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**63.0%**
Filipino	**56.0%**
No Code	**47.1%**
Black	**40.5%**
Hispanic	**37.2%**
White	**36.8%**
Other	**34.3%**
Am. Ind.	**22.2%**

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Cosumnes River College

All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
CRC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**6558**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**2470**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**37.7%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**38.0%**
Male	**37.2%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**48.1%**
Filipino	**45.7%**
No Code	**41.5%**
Hispanic	**39.6%**
Black	**36.8%**
White	**36.2%**
Other	**34.1%**
Am. Ind.	**31.6%**

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Placerville Center

Placerville Center
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
CRC/P Student Population in Fall 1988:	**2016**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**864**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**42.9%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**43.6%**
Male	**41.0%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Black	**57.1%**
Other	**54.7%**
No Code	**50.0%**
Filipino	**50.0%**
Hispanic	**47.6%**
White	**42.5%**
Asian	**36.4%**
Am. Ind.	**36.4%**

Placerville Center
First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
CRC/P First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**400**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**143**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**35.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**36.8%**
Male	**33.8%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**100.0%**
Other	**57.1%**
No Code	**40.0%**
Hispanic	**40.0%**
White	**35.1%**
Am. Ind.	**28.6%**
Filipino	**0.0%**
Black	**0.0%**

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Placerville Center
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
CRC/P Student Population in Fall 1988:	**2016**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**596**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**29.6%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**30.1%**
Male	**28.4%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Black	**57.1%**
Other	**35.7%**
No Code	**33.3%**
White	**29.5%**
Am. Ind.	**29.1%**
Hispanic	**25.4%**
Filipino	**25.0%**
Asian	**18.2%**

Placerville Center

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
CRC/P First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**400**
Number of Fall 1988 CRC/P First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989:	**96**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**24.0%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**28.9%**
Female	**21.3%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

No Code	**40.0%**
Other	**28.5%**
White	**23.8%**
Am. Ind.	**21.4%**
Hispanic	**20.0%**
Filipino	**0.0%**
Asian	**0.0%**
Black	**0.0%**

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Sacramento City College

Sacramento City College

All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
SCC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**15095**
Number of Fall 1988 SCC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**8877**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**58.8%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**59.9%**
Female	**58.0%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**69.9%**
Other	**60.9%**
Filipino	**60.0%**
Hispanic	**60.0%**
Black	**59.1%**
Am. Ind.	**57.8%**
No Code	**56.7%**
White	**55.9%**

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Sacramento City College

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Spring

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Spring 1989
SCC First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	**2373**
Number of Fall 1988 SCC First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**1460**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Spring):	**61.5%**

Persistence by Gender

Male	**63.2%**
Female	**60.0%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**79.0%**
Filipino	**63.4%**
Other	**62.4%**
Am. Ind.	**59.0%**
White	**58.5%**
Black	**58.4%**
Hispanic	**58.2%**
No Code	**42.1%**

Sacramento City College
All Students
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
SCC Student Population in Fall 1988:	**15095**
Number of Fall 1988 SCC students still attending Los Rios in Spring 1989:	**6407**
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	**42.4%**

Persistence by Gender

Female	**42.6%**
Male	**42.3%**

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	**51.2%**
Filipino	**45.2%**
Other	**44.1%**
No Code	**44.1%**
Hispanic	**41.7%**
Am. Ind.	**40.8%**
White	**40.6%**
Black	**40.0%**

Sacramento City College

First Time Freshmen
Student Persistence
Fall to Fall

Semesters Compared:	Fall 1988 to Fall 1989
SCC First Time Freshmen Population in Fall 1988:	2373
Number of Fall 1988 SCC First Time Freshmen still attending Los Rios in Fall 1989:	1137
Average Persistence Percent (Fall to Fall):	47.9%

Persistence by Gender

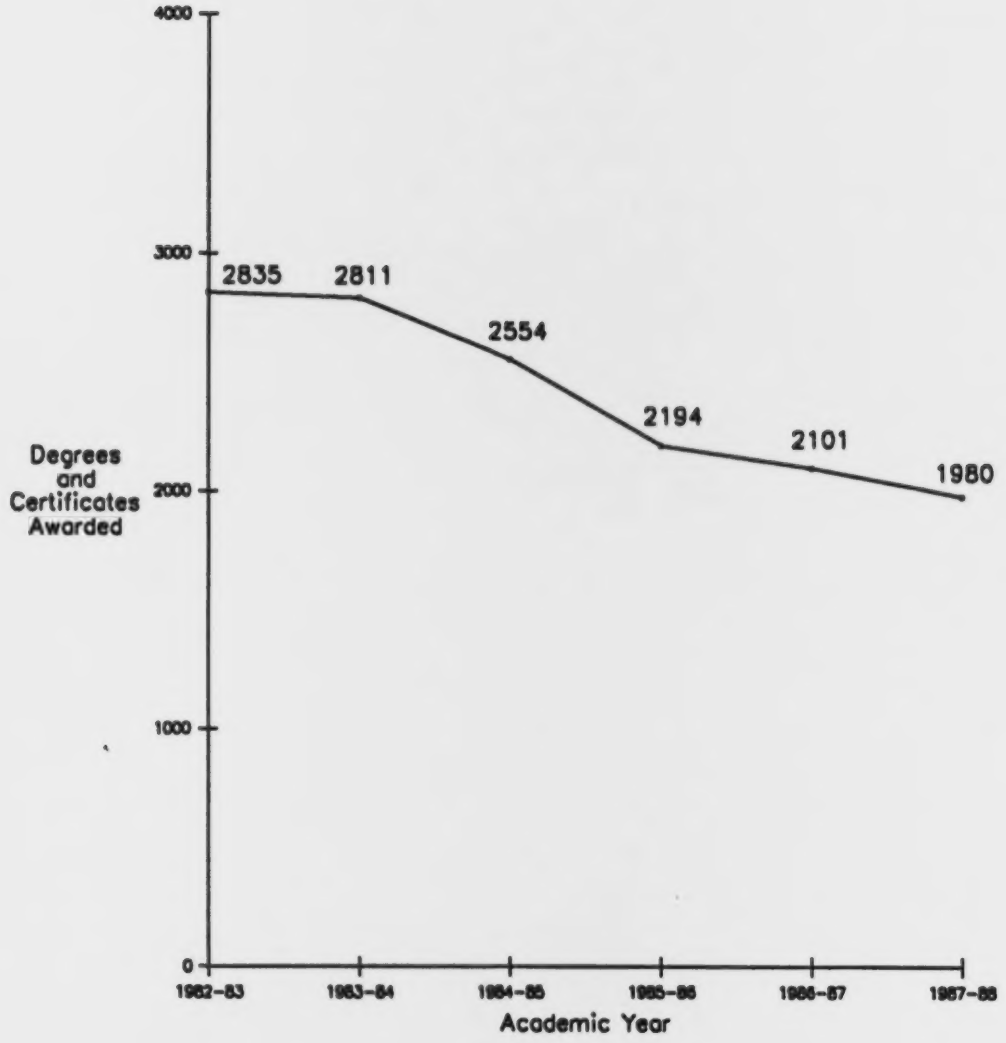
Male	48.6%
Female	47.3%

Persistence by Ethnicity

Asian	65.5%
Filipino	61.0%
Other	57.6%
Am. Ind.	46.2%
White	45.9%
No Code	42.1%
Hispanic	41.3%
Black	39.7%

Appendix A:
Degrees and Certificates
Awarded

Los Rios Community College District
Degrees/Certificates Awarded



Appendix B:
Age Group Analysis

Los Rios District

AGE GROUP		ETHNICITY I0 NO CODE	I1 AM.IND.	I2 ASIAN	I3 BLACK	I4 WHITE	I5 HISPANIC	I6 FILIPINO	I7 OTHER	T
UNDER 18	1	14	22	131	91	779	108	28	49	1222
		1.1	1.8	10.7	7.4	63.7	8.8	2.3	4.0	2.8
		3.1	2.4	3.6	2.5	2.7	3.0	4.0	3.9	
18 TO 20	2	122	192	1247	967	7256	989	240	328	11341
		1.1	1.7	11.0	8.5	64.0	8.7	2.1	2.9	26.3
		26.7	21.1	34.3	26.8	25.1	27.1	34.1	26.0	
21 TO 24	3	71	190	834	658	5196	799	159	261	8168
		.9	2.3	10.2	8.1	63.6	9.8	1.9	3.2	18.9
		15.5	20.8	22.9	18.2	18.0	21.9	22.6	20.7	
25 TO 29	4	60	177	550	634	4923	691	73	205	7313
		.8	2.4	7.5	8.7	67.3	9.4	1.0	2.8	17.0
		13.1	19.4	15.1	17.6	17.0	18.9	10.4	16.3	
30 TO 39	5	88	197	531	799	6142	700	123	269	8849
		1.0	2.2	6.0	9.0	69.4	7.9	1.4	3.0	20.5
		19.3	21.6	14.6	22.1	21.3	19.2	17.5	21.3	
40 & OVR	6	102	134	342	461	4591	365	81	148	6224
		1.6	2.2	5.5	7.4	73.8	5.9	1.3	2.4	14.4
		22.3	14.7	9.4	12.8	15.9	10.0	11.5	11.7	
	COLUMN	457	912	3635	3610	28887	3652	704	1260	43117
	TOTAL	1.1	2.1	8.4	8.4	67.0	8.5	1.6	2.9	100.0

First-Time Freshmen

AGE GROUP		ETHNICITY I0 INO CODE	I1 AM.IND.	I2 ASIAN	I3 BLACK	I4 WHITE	I5 HISPANIC	I6 FILIPINO	I7 OTHER	T
UNDER 18	1	10	13	71	64	503	79	19	31	790
	ROW PCT	1.3	1.6	9.0	8.1	63.7	10.0	2.4	3.9	10.5
	COL PCT	7.6	7.9	11.9	10.3	10.1	10.9	14.8	14.2	
18 TO 20	2	53	73	356	346	2562	369	79	118	3956
	ROW PCT	1.3	1.8	9.0	8.7	64.8	9.3	2.0	3.0	52.4
	COL PCT	40.5	44.2	59.5	55.5	51.7	50.7	61.7	54.1	
21 TO 24	3	13	28	63	82	542	103	7	20	858
	ROW PCT	1.5	3.3	7.3	9.6	63.2	12.0	.8	2.3	11.4
	COL PCT	9.9	17.0	10.5	13.2	10.9	14.1	5.5	9.2	
25 TO 29	4	8	14	41	47	447	72	7	18	654
	ROW PCT	1.2	2.1	6.3	7.2	68.3	11.0	1.1	2.8	8.7
	COL PCT	6.1	8.5	6.9	7.5	9.0	9.9	5.5	8.3	
30 TO 39	5	14	19	39	56	458	63	8	17	674
	ROW PCT	2.1	2.8	5.8	8.3	68.0	9.3	1.2	2.5	8.9
	COL PCT	10.7	11.5	6.5	9.0	9.2	8.7	6.3	7.8	
40 & OVR	6	33	18	28	28	446	42	8	14	617
	ROW PCT	5.3	2.9	4.5	4.5	72.3	6.8	1.3	2.3	8.2
	COL PCT	25.2	10.9	4.7	4.5	9.0	5.8	6.3	6.4	
	COLUMN	131	165	598	623	4958	728	128	218	7549
	TOTAL	1.7	2.2	7.9	8.3	65.7	9.6	1.7	2.9	100.0

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